



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 30, 2004

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, 2003, regarding the pending investigation of the unauthorized disclosure of a CIA officer's identity. We apologize for our delay in responding to your letter.

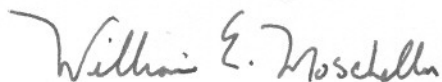
The unauthorized disclosure of classified information is a very serious matter and we want to assure you that the investigation has been, and will continue to be, conducted aggressively, thoroughly, and professionally. On December 30, 2003, the Attorney General recused himself and his office staff from further involvement in this matter. His decision, which was made out of an abundance of caution, was based upon the totality of the circumstances and the evidence developed to date. On the same date, the Deputy Attorney General appointed United States Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald as a special prosecutor to lead the investigation in order to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest and to ensure that the American people maintain the utmost confidence in the ongoing investigation.

The Deputy Attorney General, who became the Acting Attorney General for this matter, has delegated to Mr. Fitzgerald all of the approval authorities necessary to conduct an independent investigation. Mr. Fitzgerald has the power and authority to make those prosecutive judgments that he deems appropriate, without seeking the approval of the Deputy Attorney General or anyone else at the Department of Justice. Mr. Fitzgerald alone will decide how to staff this matter to ensure that the progress made to date is continued; how to continue the investigation; when and how to communicate with officials of other pertinent departments and agencies of the federal government, including the White House, during the course of the investigation; and he will make any decisions regarding potential prosecutions. The Deputy Attorney General expects that Mr. Fitzgerald will follow the facts wherever they lead and consult with him only should he deem it necessary in conducting the investigation. We believe that under Mr. Fitzgerald, the investigation will continue to be conducted in a manner consistent with the impartiality, expertise, and integrity that he has demonstrated throughout his long career as a prosecutor.

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Page Two

Again, we appreciate your concern regarding this matter and your support for our law enforcement efforts. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you would like additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "William E. Moschella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a stylized "E".

William E. Moschella
Assistant Attorney General